

# NEWS JOURNAL

Saturday, February 11, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

## This Super Bowl Sunday, understand the science of hot sauce

The first bite of the chicken wing dripping with hot sauce doesn't feel so bad.

Flavorful, but has a bit of a kick. You take another. And then another. That sweet heat has now turned into a roar, complete with a tingling face and sweat streaked forehead.

What makes hot sauces do this?

Sean O'Keefe, a professor in Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Food Science and Technology, says it's the levels of capsaicin, a colorless and odorless compound, found in peppers.

"When I get the right amount, I'm sweating and turning red. It's just the physiological response," O'Keefe said. "What the capsaicin does is bind to nerve receptors in the body and gives a sensation of burning."

This Super Bowl, as millions of Americans eat as many as 1.40 billion wings, O'Keefe is shedding light as to what makes hot sauce bring the heat.

Extended exposure to capsaicin could make it more tolerable to the human body, O'Keefe says.

"There's definitely a habituation effect where if people eat hot sauce all the time, they get used to it so it doesn't bother you quite as much. I likely burned out my receptors long ago," O'Keefe said. "But being hot for the sake of hot isn't fun. Heat needs to have flavor."

When making your own flavorful hot sauce as O'Keefe has done for years, there are a few considerations:

Wear gloves when handling the peppers.

Keep good records of hot sauces made as recipes can be continuously tinkered.

At group events, not everyone likes spicy food. Have hot and not-so-hot versions to appease the appetites of both crowds or have a classic barbecue or teriyaki sauce on-hand.

Factor in your personal heat tolerance.

See **Hot sauce**, page 4



PHOTO BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Sean O'Keefe in the Department of Food Science and Technology makes hot sauce with his students.

## Political science professor named New York Times platform contributor

RADFORD - Radford University Political Science chair and Professor Chapman Rackaway, Ph.D., has been selected as a faculty contributor to The New York Times' curricular tool, InEducation.

InEducation features weekly posts and discussion prompts from leading professors like Rackaway across 16 disciplines. For the educational platform, Rackaway will cover campaigns and elections and, along with his fellow contributors, help college and university faculty and students connect news from around the world with their studies.

"I've become an evangelist for the Times, partly because the InEducation system makes it so easy to have class-ready materials available," said Rackaway, who has been embedding the newspaper's content into his curriculum for many years. He titled his lessons "Times Talks" and gave a presentation about it one year at the American Democracy Project annual conference.

A New York Times staffer was at the conference and enjoyed Rackaway's presentation, setting in motion a relationship between the professor and the paper.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Rackaway over the past several years through The New York Times partnership with AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) and the American Democracy Project," said Kandace Fitzwater, the director of Education



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University Political Science chair and Professor Chapman Rackaway, Ph.D.

and Public Library at The New York Times. "In getting to know Chapman, I've long appreciated how he utilizes New York Times journalism throughout his teaching, both inside and outside the classroom, to connect theory to practice and help students to become engaged, participating citizens of our society."

Soon after Rackaway arrived at Radford University in August 2021,

See **Professor**, page 4

## Forest Service plans prescribed burns for the upcoming spring season

This spring, firefighters across the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest plan to conduct prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuels, restore wildlife habitat, and improve overall forest health.

Fire managers plan to burn up to 32,310 acres across the forest. Some of these prescribed burns are conducted through partnerships with the Virginia Department of Forestry, Nature Conservancy, and others.

Each prescribed burn is designed to accomplish specific objectives related to increasing forest health. Prescribed burns will be conducted only under appropriate conditions to ensure safety. Those appropriate conditions include correct temperature and wind, fuel moisture, and ventilation for smoke. When these criteria are met, firefighters implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets forest health and public safety goals, including air quality.

"Historically, fire has played a vital role



SUBMITTED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Prescribed burns across the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest are used by firefighters to improve the overall health of the forest.

in shaping the forest and its ecosystems," said Forest Supervisor Joby Timm. "Today, forest managers utilize prescribed burns to imitate the periodic fire that many plants and animals rely on. Prescribed fire is utilized to better protect communities by removing the amount of downed fuel and reducing the potential of large, high-intensity wildfires."

Prescribed burns yield multiple forest health benefits. They help remove competing vegetation, which allows remaining trees to grow faster and be more resistant to pests and disease. Prescribed burns also create areas where a diverse mix of grasses, plants, and wildflowers grow, which provides valuable food and cover for wildlife such as bears, deer, turkeys, and migratory birds.

## Radford City Council to meet Monday

RADFORD - The Radford City Council will meet at 7 p.m. this Monday, Feb. 13.

Prior to the regular meeting, council will have a closed session at 5:45 p.m. to discuss "Radford Electric Topics: Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected."

The agenda for the regular meeting

includes the following items:

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON PUBLIC MATTERS: (Please state your name for the record - Please limit comments to 3 minutes or less)

PROCLAMATION: Black History Month

RESOLUTION: Tracy Howard

PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 1780-Rezoning Lovely Mount Drive

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Appointments

See **Council**, page 4

## Street Photography program continues Feb. 15

RADFORD - Part two of the Radford Photo Club's programs on Street Photography will continue Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library.

The January program looked at some of the earliest Street Photography photos.

"In February, we will look at newer photos,"

said Adi Ben Senior, who is leading the program.

There will be conversation and an assignment. In March, those who did the assignment will each share three of their photos on the projector and talk about the experience.

Ben Senior, of Christiansburg, has been photographing

since 1987. He studied photography in the Tel-Aviv Arts Museum on a full scholarship, graduated the ISR Navy as a type II international naval photographer specialist, worked for nature Journals, and traveled from Lapland to Patagonia, from Congo to California.

See **Street**, page 4

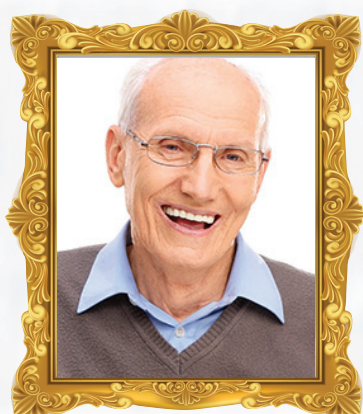


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RADFORD PHOTO CLUB

This photo of Elton John, taken by Adi Ben Senior, is one of the works that will be discussed at the upcoming Street Photography program Feb. 15.

## Grandpa's Coming Out of the Closet....

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS  
IN OUR CEMETERY



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY

2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrsv.com

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Feb. 11:

**Free Tax Assistance with NRCA**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. For more information visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita>

**Free Family Movie Matinee: Addams Family 2**  
At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Enjoy the animated sequel “Addams Family 2.” Take a road trip with this quirky family in a haunted camper. Rated PG; 93 minutes.

**Grownup Board Game Club**  
At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 4:30 p.m. Bring a friend, bring a board game, or just bring yourself to get some quality board-gaming time in at the library! We have a collection of games here, but you’re welcome to bring something from home and teach us how to play it.

## Monday, Feb. 13:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

**Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting**  
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

**Valentines Crafternoon: Valentine’s Cards**  
At the Radford Public Library; 1 – 2 p.m. Make a hearty card for your Valentine’s Day love using buttons and creativity! Supplies provided.

**RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting**  
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the Radford High School Library, 50 Dalton Drive, Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair/Secretary, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

## Tuesday, Feb. 14:

**Blacksburg Town Council meeting**  
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

**Christiansburg Town Council meeting**  
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring

any matter they desire before the entire council.

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Mr. John Winebarger, SCV Virginia 6th Brigade Commander, will speak on “Confederate Surgeons”. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

**Radford City School Board meeting**  
The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the RCPS Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford.

**Feasts and Festivals Around the World**  
At the Christiansburg Library; all day. Each month we will be exploring the feasts and festivals of different countries. This month we are celebrating Valentine’s Day in South Korea. Pick up a Valentine’s Day craft kit that also includes fun information about the holiday. Supplies limited.

## Wednesday, Feb. 15:

**NRCC offering free health screenings**  
New River Community College practical nursing students host Love Your Health event, where anyone can stop by several free health stations run by NRCC practical nursing students for health information, educational games for kids, vitals checks, and Covid-19 vaccine administration. At the Uptown Christiansburg Mall, near NRCC’s location; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Misty Rice, associate professor of nursing, at [mrice@nr.edu](mailto:mrice@nr.edu) or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4349.

**Street Photography program**  
Part two of the Radford Photo Club’s programs on Street Photography will continue at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library.

## Thursday, Feb. 16:

**Radford Reads with Stephen Skripak**  
At the Radford Public Library; 6 – 7 :30 p.m. Retired Business Professor and author Stephen Skripak will speak about his book ‘From the Boardroom to the Classroom’ at the library. This event is free and open to the public.

**Community Quilting Bee**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. – noon. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

## Friday, Feb. 17:

**NRCC offering free health screenings**  
New River Community College practical nursing students host Love Your Health Event. Free health stations run by NRCC practical nursing students for health information, educational games for kids, vitals checks, and Covid-19 vaccine administration. At the Uptown Christiansburg Mall, near NRCC’s location; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Misty Rice, associate professor of nursing, at [mrice@nr.edu](mailto:mrice@nr.edu) or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4349.

**Blacksburg AARP to present February program**  
The Blacksburg chapter of AARP will present its February chapter program from 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m. in the community room of the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr.; Blacksburg. The guest speaker will be Dr. David Ayares, President and Chief Scientific Officer for Revivacor, Inc. His topic will be “Xenotransplantation: The Solution for Overcoming the Organ Shortage Crisis.” Non-members are welcome. Donuts, coffee, and hot tea will be available. Guests can also bring a bag lunch if they would like.

## Saturday, Feb. 18:

**Free Tax Assistance with NRCA**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. Walk-In Only! For more information visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita> or call 540-320-3217.

## Sunday, Feb. 19:

**Chess Club**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Come learn chess with US Federation member Rishi. Ages 8+ all skill levels welcome. Supplies provided.

## Tuesday, Feb. 21:

**Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine**  
The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine will perform at Radford University’s Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall at 7:30 p.m. This unique opportunity brings audiences a chance to hear these remarkable Ukrainian musicians lead by Theodore Kuchar, one of the world’s most recorded and decorated conductors. You won’t want to miss this. Tickets available online, at the Hurlburt Hall Information Desk or by calling 540-831-5420.

## Monday, Feb. 27:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

**Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting**  
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

## Tuesday, Feb. 28:

**Blacksburg Town Council meeting**  
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

See Upcoming events, page 4



# Marketplace



The **FINCASTLE HERALD** | The **Vinton Messenger** | THE NEW CASTLE RECORD | SALEM TIMES-REGISTER | News Messenger | **RADFORD** News Journal

|  |  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Positions Wanted</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Quality Inn<br/>Hiring Full/Part Time Housekeeping and Front Desk. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000</p> | <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Legals - Montgomery County</b></p> <p>LOCATED AT: 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073, ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING at a locust tree on the north side of Virginia Secondary Highway No. 641 located 283 feet west from intersection of Route No. 460 and Route 641; thence a new line thru lands of (now or formerly) Raymond H. Baker, et al in a northwesterly direction 100 feet to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction 150 feet to a point; thence in a southerly direction 100 feet to a point located on said Virginia Secondary Highway No. 641; thence in a northeasterly direction with a said road 150 feet to the point of BEGINNING. Tax Map No. 082- A 41 Parcel No. 021649 BEING THE SAME REAL ESTATE CONVEYED ERBIE G.</p> | <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Legals - Montgomery County</b></p> <p>YOUNG AND DOROTHY YOUNG, HUSBAND AND WIFE, TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY WITH SURVIVOR SHIP, FROM RAYMOND H. BAKER AND ROXIE BAKER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 1961, AND OF RECORD IN THE CLERK’S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 230, PAGE 207, REFERENCE BEING MADE TO SAID DEED. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE. TERMS OF SALE: CERTIFIED FUNDS OR CASHIER’S CHECK. A BIDDER’S DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE SALES PRICE, WITH FULL SETTLEMENT TO BE MADE WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE OF SALE. ADDITIONAL TERMS MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF SALE. THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLACE OF SALE: FRONT</p> | <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Legals - Montgomery County</b></p> <p>OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073 DATE OF SALE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Order of Publication</b></p> <p>Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No. CL22002082-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARCELA VAZQUEZ HOWARD v. EDGAR ALLEN HOWARD The object of this suit is to DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that EDGAR ALLEN HOWARD appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 13, 2023. JANUARY 11, 2023 ERICA W. CONNER, CLERK</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</b></p> <p>By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:15</p> | <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Legals - Montgomery County</b></p> <p>p.m., or soon thereafter, to receive public comment on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by Creating Division 11, Entitled Cigarette Tax Sections 2-190 through 2-203 in order to Establish, Administer and Create a tax at the rate of forty cents (\$0.40) for each package containing twenty (20) cigarettes and two cents (\$0.02) for each cigarette contained in a package of fewer or more than twenty cigarettes sold or used within the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery, Virginia. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS F. Craig Meadows County Administrator</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION</b></p> <p>The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the</p> | <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Legals - Montgomery County</b></p> <p>Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by SHAH Development, LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Contractor’s Equipment Storage Yard on the property located at 1130 Cambria Street NE; Tax Parcels 497-((2))-A and 497-((2))-B; Parcel IDs 018651 and 120350; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as downtown/Mixed Use and Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town’s Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at <a href="mailto:btripp@christiansburg.org">btripp@christiansburg.org</a> with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|

# Instilling empathy and compassion: physician assistant students assist with homeless survey

ROANOKE - In the cold, predawn hours of a dark morning in late January, teams of volunteers spread out across the city of Roanoke.

Their goal was to speak to as many people as possible, gathering information for the Winter 2023 Point in Time Survey. Among them were students from Radford University Carilion's (RUC) Department of Physician Assistant (PA) Studies.

The survey is administered once or twice per year, across the country, including all jurisdictions of Virginia. In Roanoke, it is conducted by the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness, using almost exclusively volunteers to count and collect information on people experiencing homelessness in the city. Each person surveyed is classified as sheltered (residing in emergency shelters), unsheltered (residing outdoors) or under-sheltered (living in a structure but without basic amenities like electricity, running water, etc.). The questions they are asked include information not only about their living conditions but also their healthcare options, their personal histories and whether they can access basic necessities.

"We need to know their situations before they go to shelters and missions for breakfast, and that's why we go so early in the morning," said PA student Madison Ann Pelfrey, who participated in the survey and noted that the teams began working around 4:15 a.m. "It gives us a more accurate snapshot of their living conditions."

According to the Council on Homelessness, the data collected offers a snapshot of homelessness on a single day, which the organization then uses to qualify for federal assistance funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition, the council says the data "provides valuable information for area service providers, policymakers and the general public on the individual and family challenges and barriers associated with homelessness."

PA program professor Judy Smith, Ph.D., routinely joins the teams for the surveys and says that the program has been providing this volunteer opportunity to students for about a decade. Back then, fellow RUC faculty member and the chair of the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness, Paula Prince,

Ph.D., asked Smith if the PA students would be willing to participate. A new element had recently been added to the survey assessing medical vulnerability. Prince thought it would be a perfect opportunity for students learning healthcare, and Smith agreed.

"I think the student participation in the survey is important because this is a population that the students most likely haven't interacted with before," Smith said. "They may have worked in emergency rooms and have seen homeless patients, but to go out and see how these folks are living is such a humbling experience and really makes an impact on them."

Smith says the experience is a meaningful way to help PA students develop empathy and compassion for their patients – vital elements of a healthcare professional's growth.

"You know, it's hard for the students to have empathy for people if they don't understand their context," Smith says. "The homeless population has to work hard at living. Their basic necessities aren't guaranteed, which adds a level of stress to their lives that we may not fully understand. When the students get to see that, it creates empathy and understanding that they may not have otherwise."

PA student Jack Yoder agrees, saying, "You have to lead with empathy and compassion. You can't practice medicine without it."

Pelfrey says that employing empathy, compassion and kindness is "everything when it comes to working with patients," adding those traits are what many healthcare workers are drawn to in their professions of choice.

"It's so much easier to show compassion and care for people we understand," Pelfrey says. "While I may not have firsthand experience being homeless, I can understand the circumstances that lead someone to where they are and treat them compassionately rather than with pity."

Joe Howard, another PA student who helped with the survey, said his participation helped refine his skills in interacting with patients.

"If you approach someone with the intent to help them, it can lead to not-so-ideal interactions sometimes," Howard says, "but everyone we encountered during this exercise was positive. If you



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

**Radford University Physician Assistant students and faculty on the morning of the Point in Time Survey.**

treat your patients with respect, you'll receive that same respect for the most part."

That respect was evident in many of the interactions the students had with those they surveyed, as well as with members of their teams there to help them reach the homeless populations.

"Each team was paired with a police officer, and ours was Officer Wood, who was amazing," says Frank Fleming, another PA student who helped with the survey. "It was amazing for me to see how he knew the people we surveyed and how much respect he showed them."

Fleming recalls how one of his classmates was having a hard time with one of the unsheltered people they surveyed. He says Wood came over and spoke softly with the person, explaining what was going on and why they were there. Fleming says the humanity shown to the man made a tremendous difference.

"Empathy and compassion don't always come naturally, honestly," Fleming says. "We have to practice those things, and that's why I think our program has us participating in activities like this. It helps us develop the skills we need to create trusting relationships with our patients."

Fleming, Howard, Pelfrey and Yoder are all first-year PA students. In their second year, they will all begin clinical rotations, working with patients in

various healthcare facilities, clinics and offices across the region. All agree that activities like the Point in Time Survey help them prepare for the next step in their educational journeys.

"As we do our rotations, we work with preceptors who are working healthcare professionals," Fleming says. "So there is a very good chance that we will encounter the people we met during the survey again as patients before we graduate. Having an existing relationship will be invaluable as we treat them."

Pelfrey says that a recent classroom session on "implicit bias," or making assumptions about a patient and their circumstances, came to life as she worked with the survey respondents.

"It's just something that you do – that everyone does – but we have to go into a room as a provider with no preconceived expectations, and this really put that idea into practice for us," Pelfrey says.

"A lot of people think the homeless choose to be in the situation they are in – and some do – but that's not always the case," says Smith. "A lot of them have chronic illnesses or other life situations that led them where they are. Providing our students with the chance to see the various stories of these people's lives can be the start of shattering myths that pervade society about the homeless."

Mark Lambert  
Radford University



A scene from a production of "Akutagawa."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA OKUDA

## Production combines traditional Japanese puppetry, ingenious artistry, and contemporary staging

Magic abounds through tales of the supernatural presented with beautifully detailed miniature sets, extraordinary effects, and ingenious artistry. Created by Japanese master puppeteer Koryū Nishikawa V and American puppet artist Tom Lee, a new stage work uses bunraku-inspired puppets, video projection, and live music to explore the creative process of Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, one of Japan's leading

literary figures.

The Moss Arts Center presents three performances of "Akutagawa" on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The performances will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Considered the father of the Japanese short story, author Ryūnosuke

Akutagawa is most widely known in the West through Akira Kurosawa's landmark film, "Rashōmon," based on the author's work "In the Bamboo Grove." This stage production of "Akutagawa" is an international theatrical collaboration showcasing the limitless storytelling possibilities of puppetry. Featuring narration in English, the production reimagines and excerpts several of Akutagawa's best-

known works, offering an intimate window into the mind of an immensely talented, complicated artist who took his own life at the age of 35. (Please be advised that this performance contains a reference to suicide.)

The production features kuruma ningyō, a unique and vibrant puppetry tradition created by Koryū Nishikawa I in Japan 170 years ago. While bunraku puppetry requires three puppeteers to manipulate one puppet, kuruma ningyō requires only one. The style gets its name because it involves a puppeteer sitting on a "kuruma" (cart) and manipulating the "ningyō" (puppet).

Master puppeteer Koryū Nishikawa V is the fifth-generation master of Hachioji Kuruma Ningyō. He received training in cart puppetry from his father, Koryū Nishikawa IV, and later in bunraku-style puppetry at the National Bunraku Theater. He is one of a small number of puppeteers who manipulates both types of puppets.

Tom Lee is an Asian American designer, director, and puppet artist

who has performed on Broadway in "War Horse" and at the Metropolitan Opera in "Madama Butterfly," in addition to creating critically acclaimed original work fusing technology and contemporary puppetry techniques.

Nishikawa V and Lee are co-creators of "Akutagawa" and will both perform as puppeteers. Music for the production is composed and performed live by Yukio Tsuji, a resident composer of La MaMa Experimental Theater known for his work on Al Pacino's "Salome," and in the original Broadway production of Steven Sondheim's "Pacific Overtures."

Recommended for ages 14 and up, this engagement of "Akutagawa" is made possible in part through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Related events

Join a discussion with co-creators Nishikawa V and Lee as they delve into their long collaborative relationship and the development of "Akutagawa" on Saturday,

Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center's Cube. The event is free and is open to the public, but registration is required.

Virginia Tech students in the Japanese House of the Mozaiko international living-learning community will learn about the history and contemporary practice of kuruma ningyō puppetry from the creators of "Akutagawa."

Nishikawa V will lead a lecture-demonstration for a Japanese course in Virginia Tech's Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, as well as a workshop on kuruma ningyō puppetry for students at Christiansburg Middle School.

Tickets

Tickets for the performance are \$30 for general admission and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

- Virginia Tech

## Virginia Attorney General Miyares creates antisemitism task force



PHOTO COURTESY OF VA OOTAG  
Virginia Attorney General  
Jason Miyares

RICHMOND – While speaking to a group of Jewish leaders from across the state on Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day, Wednesday, Feb. 8, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares announced the creation of a task force to monitor and combat acts of antisemitism in the commonwealth.

The task force is in response to the recommendation of the Governor's Commission to Combat Antisemitism report issued in December.

The task force's mission centers around four strategies: monitoring, information-gathering, educating, and investigating instances of antisemitism in the commonwealth. This state task

force is the first of its kind in the United States.

"Antisemitism is the oldest and most sustained form of bigotry known to mankind," said Miyares. "Although America's commitment to religious diversity and pluralism has made it a relatively safe haven for Jewish people, American Jews have dealt with horrifying antisemitic discrimination and violence, and it continues today. My antisemitism task force will help our office monitor, combat, and educate Virginians about hate against Jewish people."

The task force will include Office of Attorney General employees, including Special Advisor for Outreach David Brand

and Office of Civil Rights Chief Christine Lambrou Johnson. In coming months, the attorney general will also appoint leaders from the Jewish community across the commonwealth to the Task Force.

Religious discrimination is illegal under the Virginia Human Rights Act, and the Attorney General can investigate and prosecute religious discrimination in employment and places of public accommodation, including educational institutions. Criminal complaints or acts of violence should be referred to the local authorities and the Virginia State Police.

Virginians should report any instances of antisemitic discrimination to Attorney General Miyares' Office of Civil Rights.

# Upcoming events from page 2

## Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## Thursday, Mar. 2:

### Crab Creek Watershed Project kick-off meeting

Come to the Crab Creek Watershed Project Kick-Off Meeting to learn about how to get involved and receive funding to install watershed-friendly landscaping on your property! At the Loft at Great Road on Main (100 W Main St. Christiansburg); 6 – 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Mar. 9:

### River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others, this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

### Women's Leadership Conference

At the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. The deadline to register is March 2. Register at <https://montgomerychamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/9932>

## On-going:

**Cap and Gown Drive**  
Support the 2023 BHS Senior Class

by donating extra caps and gowns for use during graduation! The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years' graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. In an effort to keep project costs affordable, it is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned before donation, though it is not required. For more information, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or [sustainability@blacksburg.gov](mailto:sustainability@blacksburg.gov).

**Blacksburg 2023 Citizens Institute**  
Want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident,

retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2023 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings beginning April 6, from 6 – 8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older, and residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register, call the Community Relations Office at 540-443-1090 or email [cro@blacksburg.gov](mailto:cro@blacksburg.gov).

**Free GED Classes**  
New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 – 8 p.m. The classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

# Street from page 1

He has been awarded multiple intentional prizes over the years and had multiple publications and exhibitions in museums, International Art Centers, and private galleries. Learn

more about Ben Senior at <https://www.facebook.com/adi.photo.spot>.

Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.

Email can be directed to [mborgarelli@gmail.com](mailto:mborgarelli@gmail.com) or Lucy Gilmore at [lucy.gilmore@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.gilmore@gmail.com).

- Radford Photo Club

# Council from page 1

to Boards and Commissions a. Planning Commission b. Board of Zoning Appeals 2. Ordinance 1780-Rezoning Lovely Mount Drive 3. Ordinance 1781-Vacation of Right of Way-K&J Properties  
NEW BUSINESS: 1. Robert Allen Hall Service Above Self Award 2. Appropriation Ordinance 1763.23:

\$5,000-NRRA Litter Prevention and Assistance Grant

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS  
COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

The meeting will be held in council chambers, 10 Robertson St., Radford.

- City of Radford

# RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

*Serving Radford since 1884*

(540) 389-9355  
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153  
USPS 387-780 • [ourvalley.org](http://ourvalley.org)

---

Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Ed McMinn, *Editor*.....[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)  
Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*.....[communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)  
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*.....[aboyn@ourvalley.org](mailto:aboyn@ourvalley.org)  
Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*.....[advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)

---

**Give us your view: [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)**

**To subscribe: (540) 389-9355**

Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in the City of Radford, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

# Professor from page 1

he began working with College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Dean Matthew J. Smith, Ph.D., to establish a connection with the Times to benefit students.

Smith's "commitment to continually improving the educational experience for our students," Chapman explained, led to Radford becoming a "Times school" with 25 constituents across campus, including McConnell Library, the Tartan student newspaper, Citizen Leader, Office of Student Involvement,

the Center for Career and Talent Development, the Highlander Success Center, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) and "a dozen of academic departments and colleges."

Now-retired Provost J. Orion Rogers, Ph.D., Rackaway noted, also played a significant role in ensuring all Radford University students, faculty and staff have complimentary access to NYTimes.com and the InEducation tool.

Rackaway's passion for the Times, Fitzwater

explained, has led the media entity to work with the professor over the years "to co-present at conferences with our team, and we were pleased to include him last March in a two-day virtual summit titled "Teaching with The New York Times. Chapman's wealth of experience utilizing the Times in teaching and championing the Times to other professors made him the perfect choice to join inEducation as our Campaigns and Elections contributor."

He was honored,

Rackaway said, "to be asked, and how could I turn down the nation's newspaper of record? I'm looking forward to being a resource for fellow political scientists across the country."

Rackaway has already begun producing content for the Times' learning tool.

For students, faculty and staff to activate their complimentary NYTimes.com access, visit [accessnyt.com](http://accessnyt.com).

*Chad Osborne  
Radford University*

# Hot sauce from page 1

Here's a recipe to make your own special sweet heat wing sauce at home:

- Two pineapples
- Four mangos
- Two 12 oz packs raspberries
- Five 4 oz packages habanero peppers
- Juice of five limes, two oranges, two lemons
- Two cups cider vinegar
- 16 fl oz of maple syrup

Five grams xanthan gum to keep solids in suspension

Grind the solids with the liquids in a blender until smooth. Heat to boiling and boil for 5 minutes.

Toss the hot sauce over the wings and enjoy.

For a truly homemade hot sauce, try growing your own peppers, O'Keefe says.

"You can grow peppers that are otherwise hard to find in stores

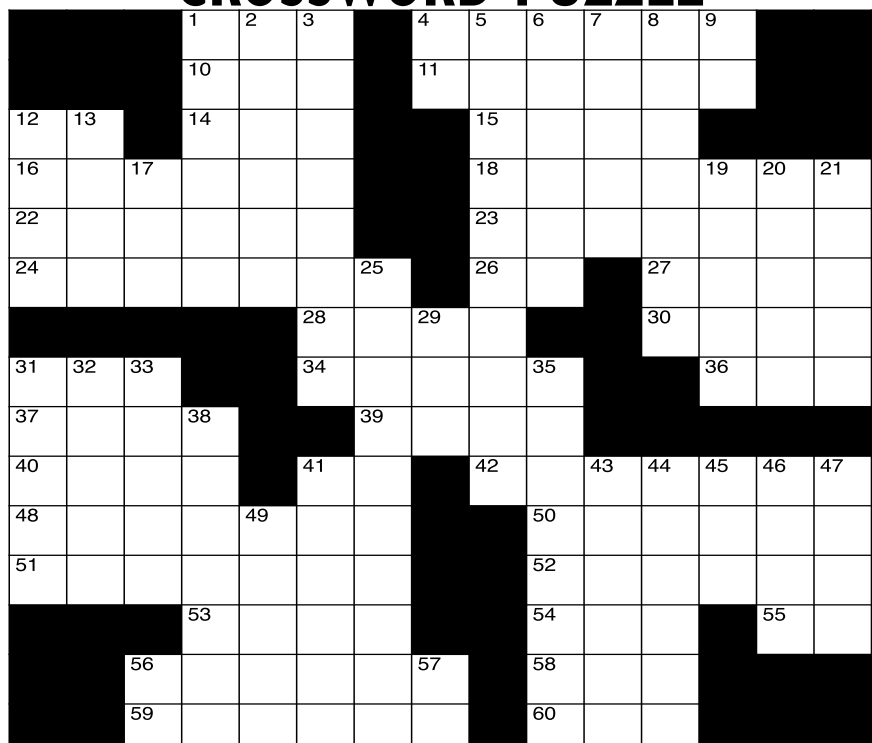
and experiment with how changing a pepper impacts your homemade sauce," O'Keefe said. "Some peppers grow well indoors by a window, others do well outdoors."

Whether your pepper of choice is ghost, Carolina Reaper, Scorpion, or the mild sriracha, craft your own hot sauce that burns so good.

*Max Esterhuizen  
Virginia Tech*

[radfordnewsjournal.com](http://radfordnewsjournal.com)

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One point east of due south</li> <li>4. City in Maine</li> <li>10. Inquire too closely</li> <li>11. Make dirty</li> <li>12. Small Greek island</li> <li>14. Bitterly regret</li> <li>15. Millisecond</li> <li>16. ___ the ante</li> <li>18. Without value</li> <li>22. Eurasian ryegrass</li> <li>23. Authentic</li> <li>24. Having a mournful quality</li> <li>26. Not out</li> <li>27. Salvador ___, Spanish artist</li> <li>28. Cargo (abbr.)</li> <li>30. This (Spanish)</li> <li>31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. Slang for trucks with trailers</li> <li>36. Helps you hear</li> <li>37. Steer a boat</li> <li>39. British School</li> <li>40. Genus of olive</li> <li>41. Computer term (abbr.)</li> <li>42. Horse gear</li> <li>48. Give off</li> <li>50. A type of salt</li> <li>51. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule</li> <li>52. One who watches birds</li> <li>53. Sailboat</li> <li>54. A major division of geological time</li> <li>55. Sodium</li> <li>56. American state</li> <li>58. Soak in water</li> <li>59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood</li> <li>60. Affirmative</li> </ol> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One of the four seasons</li> <li>2. Its sultan is famous</li> <li>3. A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye</li> <li>4. College degree</li> <li>5. Soldiers need it</li> <li>6. Japanese car manufacturer</li> <li>7. A way to address</li> <li>8. Obstruct</li> <li>9. Atomic number 45</li> <li>12. Ill-mannered</li> <li>13. Opaque gem</li> <li>17. Indicates before</li> <li>19. Remove</li> <li>20. Populous Argentine city</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. More cunning</li> <li>25. Rich dessert</li> <li>29. Payment (abbr.)</li> <li>31. Footwear</li> <li>32. Famed Alabama city</li> <li>33. Sheep's cry</li> <li>35. Arrogance</li> <li>38. Clerical vestment</li> <li>41. Serving no practical purpose</li> <li>43. An evening party</li> <li>44. Print errors</li> <li>45. Not good</li> <li>46. Egyptian Sun god</li> <li>47. Industrial German city</li> <li>49. Scottish island</li> <li>56. Early multimedia</li> <li>57. Atomic number 18</li> </ol> |
|---|--|--|---|

## YOUR LOCAL NEWS JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

---

**DIGITAL ONLY**

One Year  
Digital Subscription  
**\$29.00**

**DIGITAL & PRINT**

Yearly Print & Digital  
Subscription  
**\$72.00**

**PRINT ONLY**

Yearly Print Only Subscription  
**\$45.00 Radford \$54.00 Virginia \$58.00 Out of State**

**Subscribe online at [radfordnewsjournal.com](http://radfordnewsjournal.com) or mail to address below**

### SUBSCRIPTION TO RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL,  
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

# OBITUARIES

## Adkins, Melissa Ann

Melissa Ann Adkins, 52 of Christiansburg, passed away on Feb. 5, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, John Lucas, Sr. and Geraldine Lucas. Melissa is survived by her children, Kristian Adkins, Jonathan Adkins, Ashley Tincher, and Travis Harvey; grandchildren, Haley Weddle, Kaelyn Weddle, Triston Adkins, Alexander Adkins, and James Tincher; and brothers, John Lucas, Jr. and Steven Lucas. Per Melissa's wishes there will be no services. Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Bethea, George Nelson

George Nelson Bethea, 71, passed away at his home on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023. He was a lifelong resident of Radford and was the retired owner with his brother of the Southwest Virginia Tobacco Company and recently was employed with Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in guest services. George was a kind and gentle man and an avid sports fan who loved the Redskins, the Yankees, and the Hokies.



Bethea (Samer Katicha); a sister, Hazel Long (Ron) and their children Kimberly, Victoria, Allison, Megan, and Gabe; a sister-in-law, Judy Bethea; many other great-nieces and great-nephews, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Delma Bethea; a brother, John S. Bethea; and a niece, Elizabeth Paige Bethea. Survivors include his nephew, John S.

10, 2023, at Grace Episcopal Church in Radford. Memorial services followed with the Rev. William Yagel officiating. The Bethea family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Cromer, Marvin Anderson

Marvin Anderson Cromer, 91, son, Robbie Cromer; grandchildren of Myrtle Beach, S.C., formerly of Shawsville, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2023. He was born in Blacksburg on Aug. 4, 1931, to the late Robert and May Heslip Cromer. He was also preceded in death by his brothers and a sister.



He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Vicki and Darryl Euler; a daughter, Courtney Cromer, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Graveside service were conducted Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the Westview Cemetery with the Pastor, Wes Conner officiating.

## Eanes, Darryl

Darryl Eanes, 56, of Blanche Eanes; grandmother Sylvia Morehead, better known as Mamaw Head; aunt Helen Crawford, and uncle Earl Moore.



He was born in Radford on March 26, 1966, to Fred and Lorene Eanes. He was a kind, gentle, loving man who adored his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Fred Eanes; a sister, Linda Price; grandparents Cleophas and

He is survived by his wife, Debra Eanes of Christiansburg; his oldest son, Brandon Eanes, and his wife Ashley, of Martinsville; and his youngest son,

See Obituaries, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church**- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford. **Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**Childress Church of God**, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School - 10:00A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

### CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

**Radford Church of God in Christ**, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

### LUTHERAN

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### WORDS OF RELIEF

Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org**

email and on website: clcradford.org. 540-639-2671.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw>. Please visit our website at [www.oslc-cburg.org](http://www.oslc-cburg.org) and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg> to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email [hope@stmcl.org](mailto:hope@stmcl.org) or visit our Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS**

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. [lchristopher695@comcast.net](mailto:lchristopher695@comcast.net). Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN**

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph, for Sunday School at 10 am and Worship and Children's Church at 11 am. Our Interim Minister is Steve Willis. Phone 639-2585. Watch the worship services on Facebook, which can be accessed through the church website at [www.pcradford.org](http://www.pcradford.org) or through the Presbyterian church of Radford Facebook page. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond.

**UNITED METHODIST**

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc).

# Obituaries

from page 5

Travis Eanes and his wife, Casey, of Dublin. He was blessed with his precious grandchildren Treavor, Logan, Kylie, and Harper.

He is also survived by his loving mother, Lorene Eanes, of Radford; brother Scott Eanes, of Radford; and brother Richard Eanes and his wife, Sue, of Christiansburg.

He had a special bond with his aunt, Betty Ann Moore, of Radford; and his uncle and aunt, Billie Eanes and Marie. He was more of a little brother to his aunt, Kathy Dawson, of Colorado, and older brother to his niece, Jessica Martin, and her husband, Scott, of Radford.

He loved all his nieces and nephews: Patrick Eanes and his wife, Saera, and daughter and son, Ellie and Link; Justin Eanes and

his girlfriend, Briana; Natasha Neel, Chelsey Gravely and fiancé Dustin Andrews with daughters Renesmae and Willow, and Mason Martin.

He was loved by father and mother-in-law Sebert and Jean Rorrer, of Radford; brother-in-law Mike Rorrer and wife, Marie, of Christiansburg, Bill Rorrer and wife, Ellen, of Christiansburg, and Mark Rorrer of Radford.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Beaver Terry officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunset Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg.

## Graham, Maynard "Jack" Eugene

Maynard "Jack" Eugene Graham, 68, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at his home. He was born on Sept. 17, 1954, to the late John and Emily Duncan Graham. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Larry Graham.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Long Graham; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Russell Coble; stepson,

John Vaught; and other family members.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating. The family received friends Thursday evening at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg.

## Myers, Ronald W.

Ronnie Myers left his earthly life on Friday, February 3, 2023, surrounded by his family at his home. He was met at Heaven's Gate by his father and mother, Oakley and Lillian Myers, his two brothers, Melvin Myers and Jack Myers; and his sister Joline Fisher.

He is survived by Peggy Myers, his wife of 10 years; Ronda and Phil Carr, his daughter and son-in-law; Dawn and Eric Underwood, his daughter and son-in-law; and Brian and Bobbi Myers, his son and daughter-in-law. Also left to cherish his memory are Adrian and Emilee Turner, his grandson and wife; Haley Myers, his granddaughter; and Micah Turner, his great grandson; Clarice Vaught, his sister; and Patricia and Steve Irvin, sister and brother-in-law; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. In addition, he leaves special friends and honorary family, Polly Myers, Buck and Leigh Ann Matherly, Teresa "Sissy" and Walker Moore, Samantha Moore, Jonathan Howell, Josh Howell, Larry and Cathy Cook, and Darlene Wirt, and his many friends at the Old Timers Sportsman Club.

Ronnie was not a stranger to hard work and owned his own construction business for most of his life. He loved spending time with his family and friends and always loved being surrounded by people. He was a founding member of the Old Timers Sportsman Club and loved spending time there with his friends, sitting on his porch, telling jokes and stories, hunting, riding four-wheelers, cutting trails, and enjoying the outdoors. His home church was Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church where

he grew up learning to love God and cherishing his Christian friends. He loved music and was known to play mandolin and banjo and was invited to play in the occasional gig. You could also find Ronnie out on the open road riding his motorcycle. Ronnie had a sense of humor that put a smile on your face and a loving nature that filled your heart with joy. He is loved by so many.

The family is thankful for the care he received at the end. We would like to thank the staff and services of Medi Home Health and Hospice for their loving care through his journey and for their kindness during Ronnie's final days. We are also thankful for the staff and services of Blue Ridge Cancer Care.

There will be two Celebration of Life Ceremonies held for those who loved Ronnie. The first will be held in the Fellowship Hall of his home church of Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church on Saturday, March 4, 2023, 2- 4 p.m. The second will be held at the Old Timers Sportsman Club on Saturday, April 29, 2023, starting at 2 p.m.

Please consider a donation in Ronnie's name to Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church. Checks can be mailed to Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, 894 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. The family is also planning to start a Memorial Fund to support hospice patients during terminal illnesses. Donations can be made by making a deposit to any National Bank branch to the account of Dawn E. Myers - Ronald Myers Memorial Fund or by contacting Ronda, Dawn, or Brian for more details.

## Price, Dennis L.

Dennis L. Price, a professor emeritus of industrial and systems engineering at Virginia Tech, died Jan. 8.

Born in Alberta, Canada, on Oct. 24, 1930, Price was known for his expertise in safety and human factors engineering. He founded and directed the Safety Projects Laboratory at Virginia Tech and developed the occupational safety and health curriculum that is still being taught today.

After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1948, Price went on to earn his bachelor's degree in religion from Bob Jones University; a bachelor's and master's degree in divinity from California Baptist Seminary; a master's degree in psychology from California State University at Long Beach; and his Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University.

During the earliest stages of his career, Price worked as a research associate for Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, and as a technical staff member of the autometrics division for Rockwell International in Anaheim, California.

Hired as an assistant professor in Virginia Tech's industrial systems engineering department in 1974, he advanced to become a full professor, director of the Safety Projects Laboratory, and coordinator of the Human Factors Engineering area before being granted

the title of professor emeritus in 1996.

He was an active member of several leading professional societies, including the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, the American Society of Safety Professionals, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the International System Safety Society. He was also a member of the industrial engineering honor society Alpha Pi Mu.

Price received many national awards, among them the 1992 Educator of the Year Award from the International Systems Safety Society and the Jack A. Kraft Innovator Award from the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

He notably served two terms on the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. His first term was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1989, and his second term was reappointed by President George H.W. Bush.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Barbara Shelton Price. He is survived by his daughter, Denice Lynn Tsugawa, and his son, Philip Walter Price. He also leaves three grandchildren, Jessica J. Kotler, Allison C. Thomas, and Keanu R. Thomas; one great-grandchild, Ren Kotler; a sister, June W. Graham; and a brother, Roy C. Price.

## Slomka, Lisa Marie Bane

Lisa Marie Bane Slomka, 60, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at her home in Dublin. She graduated from Pulaski County High School in 1981, was employed with H. H. Hunt Corporation in Accounts Payable and attended First Dublin Presbyterian Church. Lisa was preceded in death by her father, Harvey Randall Bane; her former husband, Joseph Thomas Slomka, Jr.; and their son who was the light of her life, Joseph Thomas Slomka, III (Joey).

Lisa's bright light and big heart has left us way too soon. She will always be remembered for her loving and caring nature and her sense of humor. She never met a stranger and always enjoyed sharing a funny story or a joke. Lisa treasured the little moments in life; especially times with her mom at Kroger on "coupon days" and day trips with her sisters. She was happiest when she had the opportunity to celebrate life events with her family and friends. She also cherished her fur babies; Blaize, Sneezie, Pearl, and Minnie. Lisa loved God, her fiancé, her family, and her friends deeply and is now reunited in heaven with her



dad and her son, Joey, whom she missed so much.

She is survived by her fiancé, Cecil "Buck" Ratliff; mother, Barbara Reed Bane; sisters, Sandra White and Patricia Johnson (Jerry); nieces, Amanda Hall (Brian) and Alyson Chrisley (Sabrina); nephew, Steven White (Nichole); great-nephews, Rhys and Coen White; great-niece,

Keelyn Hall; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023, at First Dublin Presbyterian Church. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Mary Ann Armbrister officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens.

Flowers will be accepted or donations may be made to: First Dublin Presbyterian Church, 409 Church St., Dublin, VA 24084 or The Compassionate Friends of Roanoke Valley, 2408 Electric Rd., Cave Spring, VA 24018

Lisa and her family are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Vaughn, Mark Dwayne

Mark Dwayne Vaughn, 63, of Radford, born on Sept. 19, 1959, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 3, 2023.

Mark was preceded in death by his father, Harold Vaughn; and his former wife and mother of his children, Ann Vaughn.

Left to cherish memories of him are his son, Derek Vaughn; his daughter, Ashley Lytton (Keith); grandsons Zach Vaughn and Caleb Lytton; mother Corrine Vaughn; brothers Jody Vaughn (Sherril), Josh Vaughn (Kim); sister, Angie Rutledge (Thom) and many nieces, nephews, and great-nephews and great-nieces who will all deeply miss him.

Mark was a devoted father and grandfather. He loved watching his grandson play sports and often practiced with him. He appreciated the outdoors, enjoyed grilling out, watching football, listening to music, and spending time with the ones he loved.

Mark graduated from Christiansburg



High School in 1977 where he developed his love of sports and played football, basketball, baseball, and ran track. He also has a passion for coaching youth in football at Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools.

Mark owned and operated multiple construction businesses throughout his life.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Ty Cannaday officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

"Dad, you were my best friend and I'm gonna miss the times we've shared." - Derek

"Daddy, I will never forget the way your face would light up when I came to visit and you always said "Hey sweetie, I love you. I'll always be your little girl." - Ashley

## Michel Sicardi to donate earnings from his exhibit to New River Conservancy



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANEAN WILLIAMS, CURATOR, BLACKSBURG MUSEUM & CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Artist Michel Sicardi has announced he will donate the proceeds from the sale of his sculptures at his exhibit "Finding Paradise in the Woods" to the New River Conservancy.

Artist Michel Sicardi will donate the proceeds from the sale of his sculptures in the exhibit "Michel Sicardi: Finding Paradise in the Woods," through March 11, 2023, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg, to the New River Conservancy.

Admission to the exhibit is free; the hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Concerned about the rapid development in the New River watershed, the conservancy was formed to permanently protect the land along the New River, working with interested landowners who wish to voluntarily protect their land. Through their Accredited Land Trust Program, NRC has helped to protect nearly 10,000 acres of land and over 60 miles of rivers

through land conservation, permanent sustainable management plans, and river and stream restoration.

"We conduct river cleanups along sections of the New River throughout the

year," said Briana Bittner of the NRC. "Since 2001, we have pulled roughly the size of a blue whale (500,000 pounds) of trash and 13,000 tires from the New River," Bittner said. "We expect those numbers to increase as we clean more of the river. We are so thankful for the support of Mr. Sicardi, and Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation for hosting his exhibit."

Sicardi, who will be returning to France soon, has said he was not as conscious about the environment in his native country. It wasn't until he lived in the United States that he became preoccupied by the environmental damage caused by plastics, and Americans' propensity for using plastic bags.

Sicardi has said he is grateful for the opportunity to donate to the New River Conservancy's mission to protect land and water in this area. "I wish that more people are aware that their actions have an effect on nature and that we should do our best to lessen our impact." Sicardi said.

# RADFORD SPORTS

## Christiansburg's Ayden Conley commits to Marshall

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Ayden Conley, the gentle giant of the Christiansburg High School football team, has announced plans to continue his playing career at Marshall University.

The decision came after several visits to the West Virginia school and offers from six other schools.

Ayden told family and friends he was headed to Marshall during senior night activities of the school's basketball game. Conley also recently returned from this year's Blue-Gray All-American Bowl, which was played at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Raymond James Stadium.

Conley was also named the 2021 all-county/all-city lineman of the year. He suffered a torn ACL late in the season and missed most of the team's 2021 playoff run but came back to play the entire 2023 playoff run.

He chose Marshall because, as he said, it felt right after a couple of visits to the campus. "I felt the facilities, team and university is the right fit."

Conley was all-state this past season on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball.

At 6-4, 305, Conley enters a Marshall program that finished 9-4 this past season including a 28-14 win over UConn in the Myrtle Beach Bowl.

In 2021, University of Alabama associate head coach Charles Huff was named the Thundering Herd's next head football coach.

Huff joined Alabama in 2019 after one season (2018) as the assistant head coach, run-game coordinator, and running backs coach at Mississippi State University. He boasts 17 years of coaching experience at both the NFL and college levels with stops at Penn State University (2014-17), Western



FILE PHOTO  
**Ayden Conley (Left, number 72) helped lead Christiansburg High School to a state semi-final playoff this past season.**

Michigan University (2013), the NFL's Buffalo Bills (2012), Vanderbilt University (2011), Hampton University (2010), the University of Maryland (2009) and Tennessee State University (2006-08).

Marshall University is a public research university in Huntington, WV with an enrollment of 11,926 students.

Marshall is home to 15 NCAA Division I teams that compete within the Sun Belt Conference. This fall, Marshall will host Virginia Tech for a September contest.

Conley still has not decided on a field of study but is leaning toward mathematics as he is an outstanding member of the 2023 senior class.

## What has happened to Christiansburg wrestling?

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Typically, this time of year, Christiansburg High School's wrestling team is hosting the Class 3 region D tournament, and in the past, that has included the team bringing home another trophy. But over the past three years, the end-result has become tougher and tougher.

Christiansburg had won 18 straight titles before they were dethroned in 2019 by New Kent, which was led by a former Christiansburg assistant coach.

Injuries and the lack of depth have the Blue Demons forfeiting 5 to 6 weight classes at almost every meet.

Cody Hughes, who is in his second year at the helm of the program, said this week Christiansburg wrestling is in a rebuilding

phase. "We actually have 10 wrestlers, but two got injuries at the start of the season," Hughes said. "I think there's a combination of possible reasons that the numbers are why they are. What's important is it's getting turned around."

Over the years, this has been one of the most consistent programs in the state of Virginia and maybe the entire Southeast. The Blue Demons have produced three NCAA All Americans, five four-time state champs, six three-time state champs, 50 state champs, and 86 state place winners.

The 18 team championships makes Christiansburg one of the top programs in both the state of Virginia and the

Eastern United States.

In most cases, the current Christiansburg wrestlers were not even born when their school won the first state championship of the consecutive run.

While Hughes knows this year is not what local wrestling fans have become accustomed to, he remains optimistic for the future.

"The future of the program is to build a system for young athletes to become both better wrestlers and better people," Hughes said. "We want them not only to gain confidence on the mat but to learn important attributes that will help them succeed in life."

Hughes says he feels the school has the correct pieces to get the program moving back into the right direction toward what it once was.

## Tech football's schedule solidified

Virginia Tech football's 2023 schedule was officially announced Sunday night on ACC Network, and there is plenty of momentum buzzing in Blacksburg heading into Year 2 of the Brent Pry era.

A recently signed top-five recruiting class in the ACC, according to 247Sports, seven new mid-year transfers have been added to the roster and six home games await Lane Stadium, including a classic Thursday night contest, are just to name a few.

Tech's home slate features five teams that made a bowl game last fall, the 2022 Big Ten West divisional winner and a fan-favorite Thursday night bout.

The Hokies will have three games in Lane Stadium in the month of September, beginning their season playing host to Old Dominion (Sept. 2) and then playing Purdue (Sept. 9) the following weekend. To close the month, Tech will host Pitt (Sept. 30).

Wake Forest (Oct. 14) will be the

first contest in Lane in October, which will be followed by an open week and then the Hokies will face Syracuse on Thursday, Oct. 26. It marks Tech's second straight season with a Thursday night game in Blacksburg.

Tech's final home game of the season will come against NC State (Nov. 18), which will be senior day.

Playing on the road in back-to-back weeks in September, Tech will face Big Ten foe Rutgers (Sept. 16) and then head to Marshall (Sept. 23).

A trip to Tallahassee awaits the Hokies to begin the month of October to face Florida State (Oct. 7). Then three of their last four games will be on the road, including Louisville (Nov. 4), Boston College (Nov. 11) and Virginia (Nov. 25).

Late last week, Tech announced that its spring game, presented by PMSI, will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 3 p.m. ET on ACC Network Extra.

- VT Sports

## OUTDOOR REPORT

### DWR to launch partnership with NC Wildlife Commission to collect musky from New River

Early this month, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) fisheries biologists will be working with staff from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to collect adult musky from the lower New River.

This is a continuing partnership in which DWR provides a small number of adult musky to NCWRC. These fish are then taken back to NCWRC hatcheries and used

to produce fingerling musky for stocking in North Carolina. In return, DWR receives a large number of musky fingerlings for stocking throughout the commonwealth.

For the last several years, all musky that have been stocked in Virginia have come through this cooperative effort. Last spring, DWR provided NCWRC with five adult musky: two females and three males. For that investment, DWR received nearly 27,000

fingerlings that were stocked in waters across Virginia. The adult fish taken to North Carolina are not returned to Virginia waters due to disease transfer concerns. However, DWR staff make sure to rotate collection locations to keep from impacting the population in any one area of the river.

Submitted by  
Paige Pearson, Public Information Officer,  
Virginia DWR

## Smith, Nichols reunite old connection

Radford assistant coach Shane Nichols was part of two NCAA Tournament teams at Murray State. Before joining the Radford staff, he helped build the Racers into one of the top mid-major programs in America.

So as Radford was trying to build their roster for the future, it was only fitting that Nichols reunite with his former guard DaQuan Smith.

Smith has been one of the most reliable players for the Highlanders this season, leading the team in scoring at 13.7 points per game. He came to the New River City after four years at Murray State, where he played under the tutelage of Nichols, then an assistant for the Racers and now working under his brother Darris, the Highlanders' head coach.

"I always thought [Smith] was a good defensive player, a high-energy guy," Nichols said. "He was about the right things on and off the court. I just figured he would be a great asset to bring and build with."

Over the offseason, Darris Nichols emphasized that he wanted to recruit players from winning programs in the transfer portal.

Well, Smith did a whole lot of winning at Murray State. In four years, the Racers won three Ohio Valley Conference regular season championships and two tournament championships. Last year, Murray became the sixth OVC team ever to go undefeated in conference play.

"I know I can kinda help my teammates out because I've been to the NCAA Tournament, I've been undefeated in conference before," Smith added. "I just know how it goes. I know the way around everything in college basketball."

There were, however, setbacks along the way. As a freshman, Smith broke his ankle and was limited to just three games. "It slowed me down a lot," Smith said of the injury. "Coming into

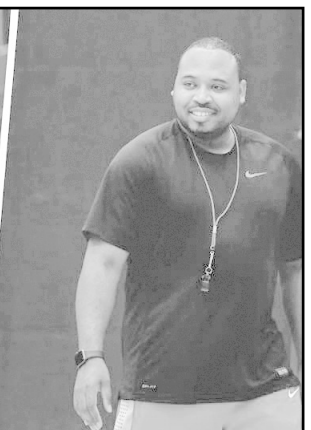


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU BASKETBALL

college, I was expected to play. To break my ankle, that was like my first real injury. I had never broken a bone before."

"The main thing with me was mentally — I was kinda up-and-down, like a rollercoaster."

While Smith started almost every game his sophomore year, he was relegated to a bench role the next two seasons. He wasn't getting the opportunities he wanted — as a senior, he averaged less than 13 minutes per game — so he wanted to look elsewhere. In March of 2022, Smith entered the transfer portal.

Soon after, Shane Nichols came calling.

Nichols had just finished up his first season as an assistant on Radford's staff, having teamed up with Darris, who accepted the head coaching job in April of 2021. It was good timing; Shane had won three straight conference titles at Murray and he was looking for a new challenge. The opportunity to coach with his brother was one he did not pass up.

"I thought it would be cool to coach with your brother in your hometown with your family still around," Nichols said. "Being at different places throughout your career, you're always looking for new challenges and different things that can propel your career. I just thought it was time."

Smith, meanwhile, had a far more circuitous route to Radford. He grew up in Holly Springs, Mississippi, a small town of about 6,500 near the Tennessee border. In high school, he had a breakout summer on the Adidas circuit, scoring 48 points in a game once. That was when several Division I coaches — including Nichols — started

to contact him.

"When I first reached out to him, he never answered the phone," Nichols said laughing. "I circled back later on in the fall. We got him up on a visit [to Murray State], and he and his mom, they loved it."

The pair kept a tight relationship, and eventually Smith committed, signing early in the fall of 2017. In doing so, he joined a Murray State program that under head coach Matt McMahon had established itself as a perennial powerhouse in the OVC. Just a year later, the Memphis Grizzlies would select Racers' guard Ja Morant as the second overall pick in the 2019 NBA Draft.

Unfortunately, the combination of injuries and playing behind more experienced players made it harder for Smith to contribute to that winning culture. That doesn't mean his decision to transfer was easy — he had grown to love Murray, and Radford was a 10-hour drive from his hometown. But the bond he had built with Nichols was enough to sell him on a new beginning.

"Coach Shane had been recruiting me since high school so I knew the type of bond we had," Smith said. "He always took care of me. I knew coming here would be a great decision."

Indeed it has. This season, Smith has put up career numbers and is one of three Highlanders this year to average double-figures. He is also shooting nearly 40% from three, up from 32% in his time at Murray, an improvement that he attributes to better shot selection.

See Reunite, page 8

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | S | B | E |   | B | A | N | G | O | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | O | R | U | E |   | S | M | I | R | C | H |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| U | P | P | I | N | G |   | U | S | E | L | E | S |   |   |   |   |   |
| D | A | R | N | E | L |   | N | A | T | U | R | A | L |   |   |   |   |
| E | L | E | G | I | A | C | I | N |   | D | A | L | L |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | S | H | P | T |   | E | S | T | E |   |   |
| S | S | B |   |   |   |   | S | E | M | I | S |   | E | A | R |   |   |
| H | E | L | M |   |   |   | O | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | E | T |   | N | O | S | E | B | A | G |   |
| E | M | A | N | A | T | E |   |   |   | B | O | R | A | T | E |   |   |
| S | A | T | I | R | I | C |   |   |   | B | I | R | D | E | R |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | P | R | O | A |   |   |   |   | N | A |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | A | L | A | S | K | A |   | R | E | T |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | V | E | N | E | E | R |   |   | Y | E | A |

**game time AT THE SUPERBOWL**

**Valentine Specials at NRV SuperBowl (Feb. 13-16th)**

**\$5 off 1 hour lane rental**  
Regular price \$27.00  
now \$22.00

**\$5.00 off Axe Throwing**  
per person per hour  
Regular price \$20.00 now \$15.00

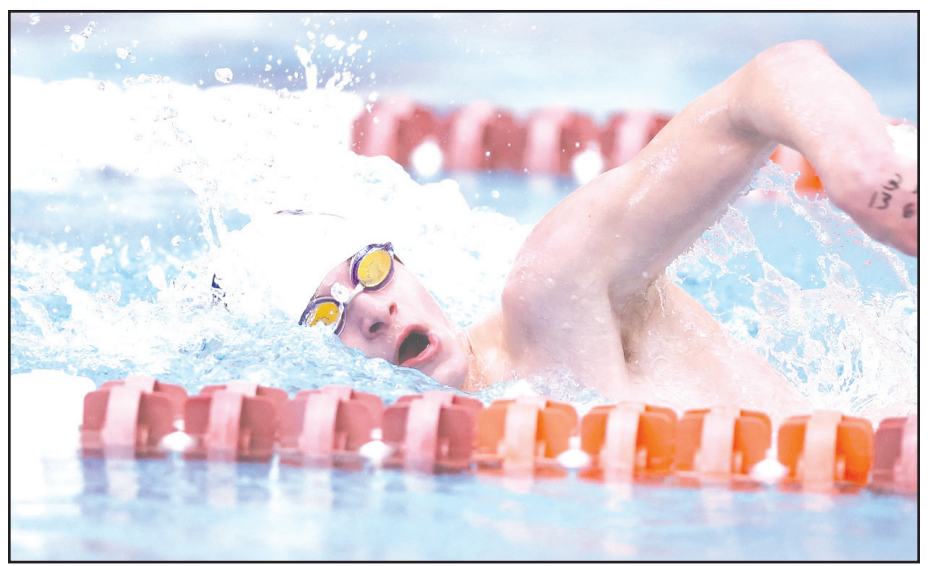
**Call 540-382-5525 for more information!**

**575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg**  
**540-382-5525 • www.nrvsuperbowl.biz**

# CHS girls finish third, boys come in fifth in Region 3D swimming



Christiansburg's Kaitlyn Brown swims in the opening butterfly leg of the 200-yard IM at Tuesday's Region 3D meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.



Christiansburg's Jacob Manieri won the Region 3D 200-yard freestyle title during Tuesday night's meet hosted by the Blue Demons.



Christiansburg's Grayson Rawlings races to the finish in the 50-yard freestyle at the Region 3D championship meet. Rawlings placed seventh overall with a time of 25.28.



Christiansburg's Kathryn Durbin swims in the Region 3D 100-yard butterfly championship. She placed fourth with a time of 1:07.66.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Christiansburg High School hosted this week's Class 3 Region D swimming and diving championships at the aquatic center, and the Blue Demon boys swam to a fifth-place finish while the girls came

in third. Cave Spring took the girls' title with 148 points. Hidden Valley finished second with 125, ahead of Christiansburg's 83 points and Lord Botetourt's 79. William Byrd was the boys' champions with 104 points with Carroll County second at 92 and Cave Spring third at 74.

Hidden Valley was fourth with 71 points and Christiansburg tallied 6 points. Individually on the boys' side of the pool, senior Jacob Manieri brought home a regional title in the 200-yard freestyle. Teammates Luke Rawlings claimed a regional title in the 1-meter diving. Teaghan Wilson won first place for

the Christiansburg girls' team in 1-meter diving while Anna Sanford was the titlist in the 500-yard freestyle. Christiansburg freshman Christina Lacy was second for the girls in the 100-yard freestyle, and fellow freshman Viktoria Zeff swam home in second place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

## Reunite from page 7

"It's more confidence," Smith said. "I'm taking great shots and as a result I'm shooting a higher percentage. Just a lot of reps in the gym. Nichols noted the same thing: confidence. It's a quality that Smith exudes. "He played at Murray but he had limited opportunities," Nichols noted. "So to play a little bit more free and bring some leadership, being on teams that won three straight championships, you see and experience things that you can bring value to other guys on the team." Over time, the pair has grown even closer. The running joke at Murray State was that Smith was Nichols' son: they were always in the office together, watching film or sitting around

joking. "I've got that relationship where I can be hard on him, but also take a step back and laugh and joke and not take anything personal," Nichols said. "Just having that personal relationship over the years was a big factor in [him] coming here." "Coach Shane is like a father figure to me," Smith said. "He's always been in my corner, helping me get better, even when he left to go to Radford and I was still at Murray State. He's taught me so much." "That's my pops."   
—RU Athletics

## BHS wrestlers win region titles

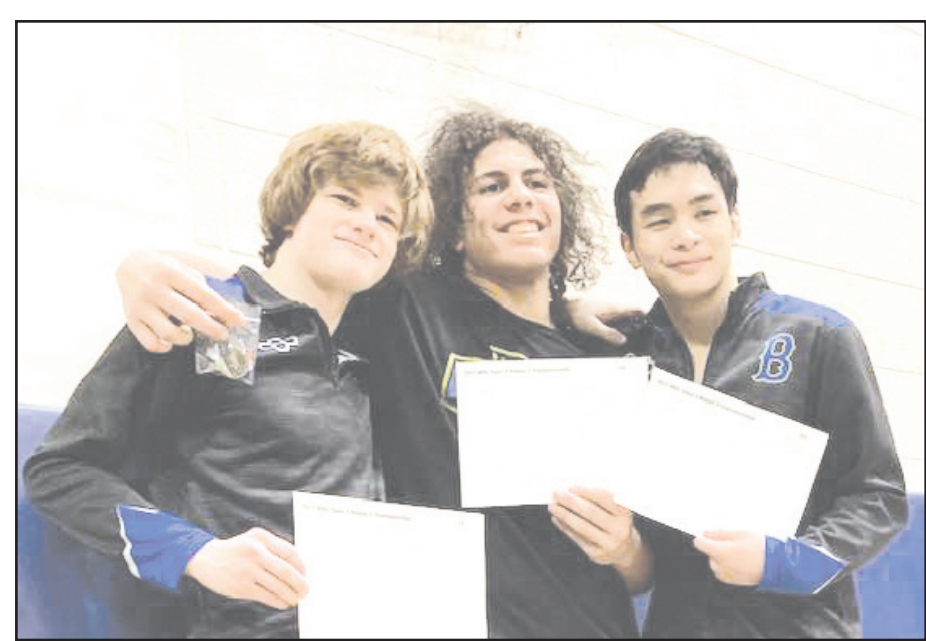


PHOTO COURTESY OF BHS  
Blacksburg High School returned from this week's Region 4D wrestling tournament with three champions. Pictured left to right are Braden Henderson (126 lbs.), Abdullah Mastrogiovanni (215 lbs.) and Tharun Sventanant (132 lbs.). In addition, Tyrique Nicholson placed third at 138 lbs. All four wrestlers advanced to the state tournament. Blacksburg finished fifth in the team standings at the region meet.



Drake Gandee (center) scores two of Christiansburg's early points of the game. Blacksburg took the 58-40 win.



Blacksburg's Wade Bland (right) goes up for a shot against the defense of Christiansburg's Richard McCrea. Bland scored 12 points in the game.

## Battle of Burgs: Round 2



Kailyn Brawley (right) scores for the Bruins under double coverage by the Blue Demons. The Lady Bruins also won their game in the Battle of the Burgs, 52-30.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY  
Sathara Kane scores for the Blue Demons unencumbered by Blacksburg.

**Shop now**  
for escape to warmer weather...  
See the selection now at its packable best

**BONOMO'S**  
WOMEN'S CLOTHING SINCE 1973

860 University City Blvd, Blacksburg  
Mon - Sat 11:00am-4pm